



Adrienne Yancy photo

BEAR HUNTING

SEASON DATES & RESTRICTIONS

| BEAR | Firearms, archery and crossbow |
|------|---|
| | Dec. 8-10, 2012 in Bell , Harlan, Letcher and Pike counties only. |

PROPOSALS FOR 2012

CLICK HERE FOR NEW 2012 BEAR SEASONS

Bear season regulations for 2012 were still pending legislative approval when this guide went to press. [On August 2, 2012 those regulations received final legislative approval and are now in effect. New bear hunting opportunities include a 3-day gun, archery and crossbow season; inclusion of Bell County into the Bear Zone; an early chase-only season with dogs; a quota hunt for bears using dogs; and a late chase-only season.](#) Please click the link above or call 1-800-858-1549 for more information on Kentucky's bear seasons.

HOW THE SEASON WORKS

1. Bear hunting is open Dec. 8-10, 2012 in [Bell](#), Harlan, Letcher and Pike counties only, and to Kentucky residents only.
2. Hunters must purchase a \$30 bear permit, in addition to an annual Kentucky hunting license.
3. The total season quota is 10 bears or

5 female bears, whichever limit hunters reach first. If the limit is reached on the first day, the season will close a half-hour after sunset. Hunters may NOT disturb or take bears from dens.

4. Hunters must call 1-800-858-1549 after 9 p.m. on the first day of hunting to check if the bear quota has been reached. If the quota has not been reached, the season will continue.
5. Bear hunting is prohibited on the Hensley-Pine Mountain WMA. Additionally, bear hunting within the 13,572 acres surrounding this WMA is limited to landowners, their spouses and dependent children hunting on their own property. See map for detailed bear sanctuary boundaries.

BAG LIMIT

The season bag limit is one bear per hunter.

HUNTER ORANGE REQUIREMENT

Bear hunters and those who accompany them, or any other person hunting public or private lands in the bear hunting zone during bear season, must comply with the hunter orange clothing law.

CHECKING REQUIREMENT

All bears must be recorded and telechecked according to the require-

Q: Is it legal to shoot a bear that is feeding at a trash can or dumpster?

A: No. Garbage is considered bait.

ments outlined in the General Information section. Bears taken during the firearms, archery and crossbow season must also be checked at a department-operated check station, where successful hunters will be issued a permanent kill tag. Hunters must telecheck their bear before leaving the station. Locations of check stations are available at [fw.ky.gov](#) or by calling 1-800-858-1549.

OTHER RESTRICTIONS

Hunters may not take female bears with cubs, or any bear weighing less than 75 pounds.

Hunters may not use bait during any bear season. Dogs may not be used to hunt bears during the firearm, archery and crossbow season, but leashed tracking dogs may be used to recover wounded bears.

Firearm bear hunters 15 years old and younger must be accompanied by an adult, who shall remain in a position to take immediate control of the youth's firearm.

LEGAL BEAR EQUIPMENT

- A modern rifle of .270 caliber or larger, but firearms may NOT be able to hold more than 11 rounds (10 in the magazine and one in the chamber), may NOT be fully automatic (capable of firing more than one round with one trigger pull), and may NOT be used with full metal jacketed or tracer ammunition.
- A muzzleloading rifle of .50 caliber or larger.
- A muzzle-loading or breech-loading shotgun no larger than 10-gauge, and no smaller than 20-gauge, firing a single projectile (slug, round ball, conical bullet or sabot bullet) ONLY.
- A handgun with a barrel length of six (6) inches, or longer, with a bore diameter of .270 inches or larger, when firing a bullet, producing at least 550 ft/lbs of energy at 100 yards.
- Archery and crossbow equipment.

WHERE TO HUNT BEAR



Maps online

See statewide harvest maps, hunting zones and more at fw.ky.gov. Click "Maps & Online Services," then "Game Maps."

Orange is the law!

ALL hunters, and persons accompanying them, hunting any species in **Bell**, Harlan, Letcher and Pike counties during bear season, must wear hunter orange clothing.

Closed to hunting!

Cumberland Gap National Historical Park, Hensley-Pine Mountain WMA and Kingdom Come State Park are closed to bear hunting.

PUBLIC HUNTING AREAS

Firearms, archery and crossbow

Asher Hunting Access Area

Boone Forestlands WMA

Corrigan WMA

Cranks Creek WMA

Daniel Boone National Forest

Elk Forest WMA

Fishtrap Lake WMA

Jefferson National Forest

Kentonia State Forest

Kentucky Ridge Forest WMA

Kentucky Ridge State Forest

Martins Fork Lake WMA

Martins Fork WMA & State

Natural Area

Shillalah Creek WMA

Stone Mountain WMA

& State Natural Area

BEAR SANCTUARY

~ Bear Sanctuary Boundary (roads in black)

